

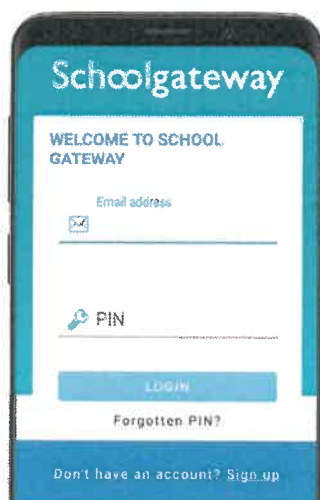
Hello all,

I hope everyone is ready for the Christmas Holidays, as it feels like the summer is now just a distant memory.

Despite this term feeling like it has flown by, I have really enjoyed spending time with the teachers and children in their classrooms and seeing the amazing work that takes place in our school every day.

The whole team here at Sycamore Academy have been working tirelessly throughout the term to ensure we create the best learning environment for all of your children. I'm sure you will join me in saying thank you to the whole staff team!!!

*Mr Worley*



### Online Bookings

From January we will be starting to phase in online payments for anything that would you usually make a payment to the school office for. Over the coming months this will eventually include everything, even school trips and uniform!

You will be able to use the Schoolgateway app to make all your payments and bookings. Attached to this newsletter is a guide of how to set up and log in to the app. The app will use the contact details that you have already provided the school office with.

We are starting with Breakfast Club, which is now available to book and pay for 2024 sessions online. In the New Year we will not be taking any cash payments for breakfast club so please ensure that you download the app and begin to register for sessions through the app.

### Parent feedback

Over the most recent parents evenings, we asked for parents to take 2 minutes to complete our online feedback form. With the help of a number of our year 6 pupils reminding parents about the form, we received nearly 150 responses over the next week.

As a school it very important to listen to our families about what matters to you and how you feel the school is supporting your children. Overall we received extremely positive feedback but have identified a few areas in which parents feel improvements can be made.

How we feedback after parents have raised a concern and how we effectively deal with cases of bullying were the areas in which parents felt we could improve. As a school that always strives to provide the best for children and families, we have taken this feedback very seriously and have already started putting steps in place to further strengthen these areas. Teachers will communicate with parents following a raised concern, even if it is to let parents know that we are aware and already working on it. We are spending

more time with the students to discuss positivity in school, what bullying is and how to report this to their teacher.

In the new year we are planning to run a number of parent workshops to provide parents with more support but also to allow a more informal time where parents can talk and chat about any issues they may have.

### **After School Clubs**

For 2024 we will be offering a wider variety of after school clubs available to children across each year group. In preparation for the 2024 terms we are finalizing a number of new clubs. These will include Kids with Bricks, Hockey, Fencing, Maths and even more.

After the holidays we will be sending out further booking information. Letters will be sent out and information will be posted on your class dojo, so please keep an eye out for these.

From today the Kids with bricks sessions are available to be booked for children in years 1 and 2, at a cost of £15 for the 5 sessions next term. For more information go to [www.kidswithbricks.com](http://www.kidswithbricks.com)

### **It's Behind You!!!!**

Recently we took children to the Nottingham Playhouse to experience this year's Pantomime. From the beaming smiles on their faces, I think it's safe to say that we all enjoyed it. Children from Foundation up to Year 6 were up on their feet, clapping, cheering, laughing and dancing along throughout the performance and represented the school so well. We were all extremely proud of all the Sycamore Children.

Also a huge thank you for everyone's patience, whilst the buses experienced long delays returning to school, due to the floods and traffic in Nottingham City. The children all arrived back to school safe and happy, if not a little tired.

We are already looking to book our place for next years performance of Jack and the Beanstalk.



### **Christmas at Sycamore Academy**

This week has been truly magical at Sycamore. We have been treated to the pantomime at Nottingham Playhouse, the children have worked their festive socks off to put on amazing nativity performances for parents and sang their hearts out in our Christmas Carol concerts.

The children have also been enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings, Christmas decorations and even Christmas crackers this week. By all accounts they loved the experience (just don't mention the tiding up to Mr Lee).

Thank you to all the amazing donations we had for our raffle hampers. The children all took part in the raffle draws and there have been a number of very lucky winners, who each won one of our hampers.

Below are some key dates, but these are all subject to change.

**Dates for your diary**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January – First back at school

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Yr 2 swimming starts

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January - Area bands after school club resumes

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Magical Maths after school club (5 weeks)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Yr 1+2 Kids with Bricks club (5 weeks)

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of term

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February – School Holidays

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – First day of term

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Inset day (School Closed)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Bank Holiday (School Closed)

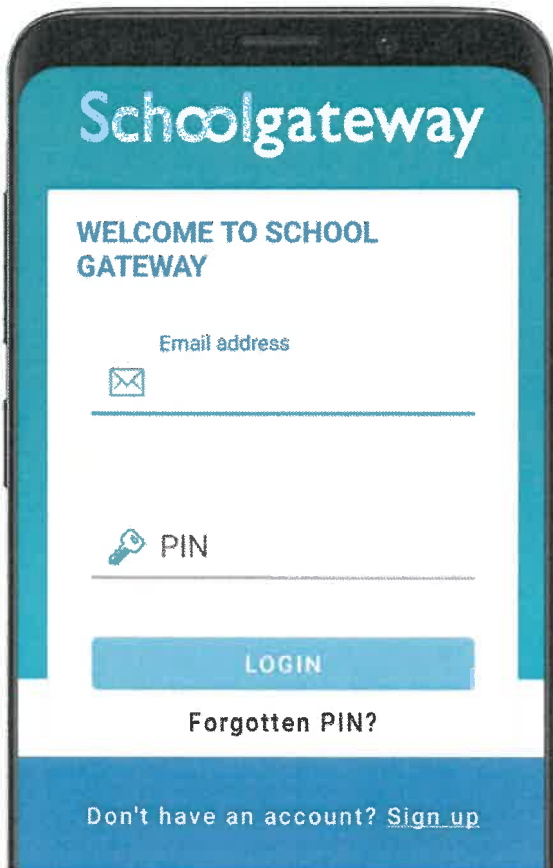
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Bank Holiday (School Closed)

2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April – Easter School Holidays

15<sup>th</sup> April – First day of term



From everyone at Sycamore Academy, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas break and we can't wait to see everyone returning to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



## How to activate your account

1. Download the Android or iPhone app.



2. Press '**Sign Up**' then enter the email and mobile number your school has on record. (If you're not sure if they have the right details, it's best to check and update first).

3. Press '**Send PIN**'.

You will receive a text message with your unique PIN.

4. You're now ready to log in and start using School Gateway.

5. If you don't have a smartphone or prefer to use a computer, you can set up your account using **the web version** of School Gateway

<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/register>

## How to log in

1. Once you have your PIN, go ahead and launch the School Gateway app on your smartphone or tablet.
2. Enter the email you have registered with your school and the PIN you received. If you didn't get a PIN, it is likely because your school doesn't have the right contact info. Get in touch with them to check.
3. If both the email and PIN are entered correctly, hit '**Login**' and you're ready to start engaging with your school.



**\*Please use the email and telephone number you have provided to school.**

**If you require any help with this please call the school office on 0115 9155804**